DT05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 0 2 DEC 2004

DECLE69.003APC PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

De Vuyst, et al.

Appl. No.

unknown

Filed

herewith

For

STREPTOCOCCUS THERMOPHILUS STRAINS PRODUCING STABLE HIGH-

MOLECULAR-MASS

EXOPOLYSACCHARIDES (amended)

Examiner

unknown

Group Art Unit

unknown

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned U.S. application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.